



## **2006 Summary Report Oregon Department of Forestry Tribal-State Agency Government-to-Government Relations**

### **INTRODUCTION**

During 2006, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) continued its involvement and communication with the Tribes as it conducted its business of forestry. This involvement is reflected in agency policy and agreements, training, education, informational materials, and participation in opportunities that further employee government-to-government relations' knowledge and skills, and in direct consultation, communication, and cooperation. This report will discuss this departmental involvement, both on an agency-wide basis, and program-by-program and district activities. Some significant budget reductions over past and current biennia have limited opportunities for many activities throughout our agency. The Governor's Recommended Budget includes restoring some of that lost capacity and, if these resources are actually realized, we look forward to continuing to build on our successes in Tribal-State Relations.

### **AGENCY-WIDE ACTIVITIES**

#### **Agency's Designated Representative**

With the retirement of Steve Thomas, Assistant State Forester for Forest Management, in 2006, Ted Lorensen, Assistant State Forester for Resource Policy assumed the role as Agency Liaison for Government-to-Government Relations.

#### **Involvement with the Natural Resources and Cultural Resources Groups**

The department's Natural Resources Group representative continues to be Lanny Quackenbush, Operations Manager for the Private Forests Program. The departmental representative on the Cultural Resources Group is John Barnes, State Forests Program Cultural Resource Specialist, and he attended three of that group's meetings in 2006, sharing program information and discussing issues with the tribes and other state agencies.

## **Tillamook Forest Center**

The Tillamook Forest Center (on Highway 6, between Portland and Tillamook) opened to the public on April 1, 2006. The center's exhibits tell the story of the forest's history. They include a group of displays that describe Native American life and culture in the lands that are today the Tillamook State Forest.

Recognizing the importance of native cultures in the story of the Tillamook State Forest and realizing that the center's excellent displays tell only a portion of that story, the center has looked to nearby tribes to learn more about native culture.

In these first months of the center's operations a series of meetings have been held between the center staff and members of nearby tribal groups. The objective of these meetings have been connecting the purpose of the Tillamook Forest Center with the interests of local tribal groups. Through these meetings existing relationships have grown and new relationships have been established.

In June, Jim Quiring, Tillamook Forest Center Director, met with Don Ivy, Cultural Resources Staff with the Coquille Tribe, during a basket weaving workshop. Jim shared the work of the center while Don shared the story of the tribe's newly-completed Plank House.

In July, Jim met with Eric Thorsgard, Cultural Protection Specialist with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, during the annual Veteran's Pow Wow. Jim told the story of the Tillamook Forest Center and Eric shared some of the story of the Grand Ronde people.

In September, Jim was invited by Robert Kentta, Cultural Resources Director with the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, to come to Siletz for the traditional Feather Dance. During the evening, Robert shared some of the story of the Siletz and Jim shared an update on the Tillamook Forest Center with Robert.

In October, the Tillamook Forest Center sponsored a Basket Weaving Demonstration by native basket weavers from the South Coast Basket Weaver's Association. This special event provided center staff and visitors to the center with an opportunity to learn about the history and culture of native tribes of the Oregon and Southwest Washington coasts.

The history of the Tillamook State Forest is a rich one and the story of Native Americans is an important part of that history. It is the hope of center staff to be able to continue to build relationships with our tribal neighbors that could some day evolve into a formal collaborative partnership.

## **Archaeological and Cultural Resources**

**Training:** The Oregon Departments of Forestry and Parks and Recreation held their second joint archaeological/cultural resource training session in April 2006. This was a three-day training session that included both classroom and field work. It was held in the The Dalles and 23 employees from each agency attended.. This training – which was jointly developed two years ago by the two agencies – was developed to improve the awareness and understanding of items such as the importance of archaeological preservation, prehistoric and historic sites, applicable

federal and Oregon statutes, Native American perspectives, consultation with tribes, and agency procedures. Several tribal representatives were involved in this ongoing training program, providing valuable perspective and advice on improving communication with the tribes. This training provides critical information that will enable employees to carry out their responsibilities regarding the management of archaeological resources within the agencies' programs.

Planning is underway for another training session in April 2007. The agency's goal is to make this training available to all professional field staff. The department has also agreed to partner with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to begin offering this training to other state agencies beginning in the fall of 2007.

A basic awareness and recognition training is being developed for agency fire fighting crews – who are often seasonal employees that are not able to attend the training session described above.

The department has also added a brief introductory section on cultural resources awareness to focused training on the Forest Practices Act that it provides in cooperation with Associated Oregon Loggers' professional logger accreditation program. Conversations have been initiated with the Western Forestry and Conservation Association to encourage and potentially partner in continued and expanded cultural resources training opportunities for forest landowners participating in sustainable forestry third party certification programs.

**Informational Brochure:** The department produced a brochure entitled "Protecting and preserving Oregon's archaeological and cultural resources – A Guide for Forest Landowners and Operators". This brochure outlines landowner responsibilities regarding archaeological sites and will be a resource for the agency's field foresters to provide information to landowners of their obligations when dealing with cultural sites. Input on the brochure was obtained from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department State Historic Preservation Office, the Legislative Commission on Indian Services, and tribal representatives on the Natural Resource and Cultural Resource Groups. Copies of the brochure are available at all local ODF field offices and Salem Headquarters. It will also be added to Forest Stewardship Plans developed by non-industrial forest landowners participating in the Forest Stewardship Program, and provided to operators attending the Associated Oregon Loggers' programs. An electronic version of the brochure is available on the department's web page about agency Tribal-State Relations at:

([www.oregon.gov/odf/Organizational\\_Management/Tribal\\_State\\_Relations.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Organizational_Management/Tribal_State_Relations.shtml))

**Other agency-wide activities:**

- Karen Quigley, Legislative Commission on Indian Services, presented information and facilitated discussions with participants in the department's Agency Leadership Program about tribal issues and Tribal-State Relations. Karen also met with the department's program directors to discuss tribal consultation and how to improve outreach to the tribes.
- During a meeting of the agency's Leadership Team, that group had a discussion about Tribal-State Relations and developed a list of opportunities for consultation in 2006 by geographic areas and Salem program staff. This list will be used to refine ODF's outreach efforts to the tribes. The team also identified how to better utilize the employees that are attending the archeological training that is being offered by the department.

- The agency's internal directive on Government-to-Government Relations was updated and revised in May 2006 to reflect the most recent information on this issue, and to ensure that is shared with and accessible for all agency employees. That directive is also available on the department's web page devoted to Tribal-State Relations at [www.oregon.gov/ODF/Organizational\\_Management/Tribal\\_State\\_Relations.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Organizational_Management/Tribal_State_Relations.shtml).

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The following informational summary is organized by the department's program responsibilities and district, and includes the major areas in which the agency works with tribal governments, efforts to address key issues, communication, and collaboration and cooperation with other agencies and the tribes.

## **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

### **Forest Resource Planning Program**

- During the year, the Board of Forestry's Ad Hoc Advisory Committee of Sustainable Forest Management Indicators completed its work and provided a final report to the Board. Kevin Craig, representing the Coquille Tribe, was an important and active member of the committee and influenced the committee's recommendations. The goal of this work was to develop a suite of indicators that Oregonians could agree upon and that could then be used by the board to measure progress towards sustainable forestry. The Tribes are an important and valued stakeholder in that process and ultimate consensus and acceptance that these indicators are appropriate. In September, the Oregon Tribes Natural Resources Work Group was briefed about the Advisory Committee's report and in November, ODF provided a report on the indicator development process at the Oregon Tribal Environmental Forum. More information on the indicator development process, including the committee's report, can be found on the agency web page about this subject at: [www.oregon.gov/ODF/RESOURCE\\_PLANNING/Sustainable\\_Forest\\_Indicators\\_Project.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/RESOURCE_PLANNING/Sustainable_Forest_Indicators_Project.shtml).
- The department worked with the Governor's Office to form the Federal Forests Advisory Committee – a committee charged with developing a shared vision for Oregon's federal forestlands that will be adopted by the Board of Forestry and provided to the Governor. Nominations for Advisory Committee participation was solicited from the Tribes and Tim Vredenburg, Coquille Tribe, was selected as a Committee member. The Advisory Committee will begin its work in November, 2006.
- The Oregon Departments of Forestry and Energy are co-sponsoring the Oregon Forest Biomass Work Group. A representative from Warm Springs Forests Products serves on the Work Group. The Work Group has established a vision of ensuring Oregon enjoys healthy forests, clean air, expanded economic opportunity, and greater energy independence because of thriving industries that make the best use of the state's forest biomass. The Work Group's goal is to address the barriers that exist for sustainable use of forest biomass in Oregon.

Over the past year, the Work Group has established sub-groups to work on the following issues:

- a. Predictable supply
- b. Communications
- c. Economy and market development
- d. Extraction and production infrastructure development
- e. Research and development
- f. Supportive regulatory environment

The Work Group has opened dialogue and promoted active communication on a range of topics:

- a. Federal stewardship contracting.
- b. Highest wildfire threat lands assessment and Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
- c. Encouraging public involvement and public comment regarding forest biomass-based projects and initiatives.

## **Private Forests Program**

### ***Eastern Oregon Area***

#### **Central Oregon District, Prineville**

Stewardship Foresters have done consulting work on Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs lands and have done Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program plans on 10.6 miles (346 acres) of the main stem and Middle Fork of the John Day River and some of its' tributaries.

Coordination opportunities are presented with both the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Burns-Paiute at the Grant and Harney Counties' Soil and Water Conservation District meetings.

#### **Northeast Oregon District, LaGrande**

Cooperation continues in areas of salmonid restoration and enhancement activity. The stewardship foresters have worked on joint restoration projects weaving together tribal interest and dollars with other funding sources such as Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Bonneville Power Administration and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Tribal fisheries biologists are viewed as a useful information source during these activities. In Wallowa County, coordination with the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), county, and ODF occurs during the implementation of the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan. Representatives from the NPT and ODF serve on the Natural Resource Advisory Committee – a technical committee that reviews land use actions and activities, and makes recommendations to the county commissioners. The NPT also provides input into the watershed assessment and project prioritization process via this committee.

The tribal interests in Northeast Oregon are well-represented in all facets of salmon recovery and water quality issues. This interest is evident in the total maximum daily load/water quality

planning processes that have occurred on the Upper Grande Ronde, the Walla Walla, and the Umatilla Rivers. This process is also currently underway in the Wallowa, Lower Grande Ronde, and Imnaha River basins in Wallowa County. The tribes have been key players and, in some cases, core partners in these processes as well as other watershed activities.

***LaGrande and Wallowa Units:*** The Forest Practices Act is administered on the NPT lands in Wallowa County. At present, no notifications of operation have been filed with ODF. Given the limited access, steep terrain, and the primary management purpose of promoting wildlife habitat, harvesting activity is anticipated to be low.

Two Stewardship Foresters was able to attend the Cultural Resource Training held in The Dalles in Spring, 2006. This training is intended to help personnel understand the significance of and recognize potential archaeological sites prior to allowing forest activity to occur. It is our intent to provide this training to all Stewardship Foresters and other field personnel over the next couple of years.

The Wallowa Unit Forester is a member of the steering committee that provides input to the NPT staff to aid in the implementation of a management plan for tribal lands in Wallowa County. A draft of the Precious Land Wildlife Management Area Plan was completed in 2005 with review provided by ODF. The land was purchased with BPA wildlife mitigation funds (Snake River dams) and the objective for these lands is to enhance and preserve wildlife habitat.

***Pendleton Unit:*** The Forest Practices Act is administered on the private lands within the reservation boundary of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). Notifications and permits to operate power-driven machinery are required on all private forest land operations. The Unit continues to provide a copy of all notifications for operations within the reservation boundaries to appropriate staff of CTUIR. Private landowners within the reservation boundary are also required to obtain a conditional - use permit from the CTUIR for harvesting activity. On some operations, this conditional - use permit has required a high level of effort and coordination for the private landowners. The number of notifications on private forestland within the reservation boundary remains proportionately less than on other private land within Umatilla County. Avenues exist for joint pre-operation inspections (between CTUIR and ODF) to occur on operations deemed sensitive within the CTUIR boundaries.

The Pendleton Unit Stewardship Forester was able to attend the Cultural Resources Training held in The Dalles in Spring 2006. This training will assist with the identification and protection of potential archaeological sites during forest operations.

ODF and CTUIR personnel consulted on several aspects of streamside restoration work that was done within the forest boundary and reservation this year.

## *Southern Oregon Area*

### **Douglas Forest Protection Association and Roseburg Unit, Roseburg**

One Stewardship Forester was able to attend the Cultural Resource Training held in The Dalles in Spring 2006. This training is intended to help personnel understand the significance of and recognize potential archaeological sites prior to the start of forest operations.

## *Northwest Oregon Area*

### **Astoria and Forest Grove Districts:**

Both Astoria and Forest Grove Districts sent district natural resource employees in the Private Forests and State Forests Programs to the Cultural Resources Program in The Dalles during the spring.

## **Protection from Fire Program**

## *Eastern Oregon Area*

### **Central Oregon District, Prineville**

The Central Oregon District has continued a very positive working relationship with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS) and the Burns-Paiute Tribe this past year.

There is constant communication and coordination with the CTWS during fire season with both the Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center (COIDC) and The Dalles dispatch center. In 2006, we were very fortunate that there were only a few small fires that required mutual aid and support. However, the relationships are very good and would serve us well during a difficult incident. The year the Wheeler County Community Wildfire Protection Plan was also completed in coordination and cooperation with the CTWS.

### **Northeast Oregon District (NEO), LaGrande**

**Wallowa Unit:** The Northeast Oregon District – Wallowa Unit has a Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement with the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) which has been in place since 1999. Under this agreement ODF provides fire protection on 14,153 acres of tribal land within the NEO forest protection boundary. This accumulated acreage is known as the “Precious Lands Wildlife Management Area” and is located in northeastern Wallowa County. The NPT does not pay taxes on this property. To offset the actual cost of fire protection, they pay both the landowner portion of the fire patrol assessment and the General Fund match. ODF agrees to request Tribal-sponsored 20-person crews when needed to aid in the suppression efforts on the property. The NPT will also provide a Tribal representative to work with the fire managers in instances where heavy equipment will be used on the property, due to the presence of cultural resources. Tribal employees working on the property during the summer months have also aided ODF in the early detection of fires on Tribal lands as well as on adjacent private and public lands. In 2006, no wildfires were detected or reported on the NPT lands in Wallowa County. ODF continues to coordinate with the Precious Lands Resource Manager to assure that any access changes, gate combinations, etc., are effectively communicated.

In 2006, managers from the Wallowa Unit met with NPT representatives to discuss fuel reduction/prescribed burning projects that would help protect structures within the Precious Lands Wildlife Management Area.

***Pendleton Unit:*** The Umatilla Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has a fee-based fire protection agreement with the district. The agreement has been in place since 1961. Under the agreement, NEO - Pendleton Unit provides fire protection for approximately 50,000 acres of Indian Trust land that is within both the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and the NEO forest protection boundaries. The agreement has recently been reviewed and rewritten so as to be in compliance with the Master Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement. As in past years, representatives of the BIA, the CTUIR, and ODF meet prior to the beginning of the 2006 fire season to update the Local Operating Plan. Last year's addition of a fully-qualified Fire Management Officer to the BIA staff improved our ability to interact with their resources, primarily through common and nationally-accepted training standards. Because the Pendleton Interagency Coordinating Center does not have BIA and CTUIR radio frequencies, ODF has continued to allow BIA to use our radio frequencies to order shared resources (retardant aircraft, crews, etc.) through the federal agency (Umatilla National Forest).

The BIA and ODF have a mutual aid fire protection agreement that enables each agency to help the other within their jurisdictional area. Both the BIA-Umatilla Agency and the ODF-Pendleton Unit have Mutual Fire Aid Fire Protection Agreements with the CTUIR Tribal Fire Department. These agreements allow for the ODF-Pendleton Unit, the BIA-Umatilla Agency, and the CTUIR Tribal Fire Department to assist each other with available fire-fighting resources as needed and available. ODF provides engines and overhead to Tribal Fire and BIA for wildland fires outside of ODF's forest protection boundary. For Tribal Fire and BIA-Umatilla Agency, these agreements allows them to provide firefighting resources on lands for which ODF - NEO is the protecting agency. The principal responsibility of the Tribal Fire Department is structural protection while BIA and ODF are primarily trained as wildland firefighters. The close cooperation and professional respect between all of these agencies continues to provide an effective fire protection system for all residents of the Umatilla Reservation, including private landowners within the Reservation boundaries. As the CTUIR moves closer to compaction, the three agencies are maintaining an on-going conversation about how best to provide comprehensive fire protection to tribal and non-tribal landowners within the reservation boundaries.

The 2006 wildland fire season proved to be a difficult one, particularly during the month of August. Numerous lightning fires kept resources busy throughout the area. Human activity caused several fires within or close to the reservation boundary. ODF, Tribal Fire, and BIA firefighters worked cooperatively on seven fires and several smoke chases to successfully prevent any of these from escaping initial attack.

The BIA and the ODF Pendleton Unit are coordinating and consulting on the implementation of the National Fire Plan on lands within or affecting Reservation properties. Through close coordination and cooperation with the local BIA field management office, ODF in Salem, , and the Portland office of the BIA, the Pendleton Unit was able to secure a BIA grant for fuels reduction work on private lands around the Lake Hum-te-pin Tribal resource area. This work

was designed to compliment and coordinate with similar work being done by BIA personnel on Tribal lands in the same area. Both agencies are planning to treat additional acres through jointly-coordinated efforts to secure future funding for these projects. These projects are primarily designed to reduce excessive fuel loadings, and provide fuel breaks and/or defensible space in critical areas. Improved forest health is an important side benefit. This work is being done in targeted, high-priority wildland urban interface (WUI) areas that were identified in the Umatilla County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, completed in late spring of 2005. ODF, Tribal Fire, and BIA all worked jointly as members of the steering committee in the creation of this document.

This was the last year of a National Fire Plan fire prevention grant that has allowed the Pendleton Unit to fund targeted fire prevention efforts in Umatilla County and within the Umatilla Reservation. Prevention efforts in 2006 included fire danger signing and fire prevention awareness advertisements in local newspapers. This year, the BIA-Umatilla Agency funded the advertisements in the CTUIR *Confederated Umatilla Journal*, while ODF paid for ads in *The East Oregonian* and *The Walla Walla Union Bulletin*. In order to “seize the moment” and continue emphasizing prevention over suppression, ODF, Tribal Fire, and BIA joined together with other fire agencies in the Umatilla Co. area to form a fire prevention cooperative. The as-yet-unnamed cooperative will seek to promote a consolidated approach to the prevention of uncontrolled fires, structural as well as wildland.

The CTUIR Office of Air Quality will begin implementing the new Federal Air Rules on Reservations requirements for open burning on the Umatilla Indian Reservation on January 1, 2007. ODF personnel and Tribal representatives have been having discussions on the coordination of smoke management and fire prevention permit requirements for both agencies. This discussion will continue into 2007.

In summary, the Pendleton Unit perceives the working relationship concerning fire protection with the CTUIR and the BIA -Umatilla Agency as successful and productive, and one that enhances all of the agencies' efficiencies and effectiveness. Each agency adds their strengths to the organization. This, in turn, provides the residents of the CTUIR with an effective and responsive fire protection system. Without this high level of cooperation between agencies, the checker-boarded ownership within the reservation boundaries would create a fire protection system that is cumbersome, and less efficient and effective.

## ***Northwest Oregon Area***

### **West Oregon District, Philomath**

The West Oregon District has fee-based fire protection agreements with both the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz. Staff from the Tribes regularly attend and participate in meetings of the West Oregon Forest Protective Association. It is common to have joint fire suppression action from tribal and ODF organizations on fires of mutual concern. Joint fire training is a yearly occurrence. Slash disposal is also a frequent issue requiring communication and coordination. Larger planning efforts including fire mobilization plans from each organization are shared and reviewed between the organizations.

Personnel from the Dalles Unit met with the Grand Ronde tribal forestry staff to go over the notification process and smoke management system.

### ***Southern Oregon Area***

#### **Douglas Forest Protection Association and Douglas District, Roseburg**

Representative of the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe and staff from the Douglas Forest Protective Association and ODF met to increase mutual understanding of each organization and to discuss how we can cooperate to better accomplish our individual objectives.

The Douglas Forest Protection Association is doing a 30-acre fuels project on land owned by, and in cooperation with, the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe, near Canyonville.

#### **South Cascade District, Sweet Home**

ODF South Cascade District – Sweet Home and Eastern Lane Units – again teamed up with other state and federal agencies to host a five-day intensive training session in wildland firefighting. More than 200 firefighters participated in the seventh annual interagency fire school that was held in 2006. Participants included the Willamette, Siuslaw, and Umpqua National Forests, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, and ODF personnel from the West Oregon, Western Lane, and North Cascade Districts.

## **State Forests Program**

### ***Eastern Oregon Area***

#### **Klamath-Lake District, Klamath Falls**

Klamath-Lake District continues to coordinate and cooperate with the Klamath Tribes and the University of Oregon related to the district's ongoing Cultural Resources Survey Plan and inventory of ODF state forest lands managed by the district. During 2005-06, a specific site survey was completed on the Anomalous Timber Sale, with applicable protection measures determined. Site information was provided to the Tribes with input provided back to the district for measures to be undertaken during the proposed management activities.

Also continuing during 2005-06, was the Klamath Tribes review and opportunity to comment on the Klamath-Lake District's Annual Operations Plan (AOP) for state-managed lands in the district. In addition to the AOP review, each proposed timber sale was reviewed by the Tribal Biology Staff for input related to the tribal wildlife objectives and concerns.

*Northwest Oregon Area*

**Astoria District**

Staff with the Astoria District and Northwest Oregon Area Office are working with the Grand Ronde Tribe regarding the re-naming of two geographical sites in the District. Further work on re-naming these sites and the process for doing this through the Oregon Geographic Names Board continues and will move forward during 2007.

**West Oregon District, Philomath**

Copies of the District’s State Forests Program Annual Operations Plans were distributed to the Tribes for review, information input, and sharing.

**Western Lane District, Veneta**

An inter-governmental agreement between ODF and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI) was implemented in 2006 to conduct archaeological research within the ancestral territory of the CTCLUSI located within the 24,000 acres of state-owned forestlands in the Coast Range west of Veneta. Cultural resources program staff from the CTCLUSI will conduct an archival records search, develop a survey plan for the study area, perform pedestrian surveys at sites identified during the research, and provide a final report including an assessment of the effectiveness of ODF’s current procedures for the protection of archaeological resources during forest operations.

*Southern Oregon Area*

**Coos District, Coos Bay**

Each year the Coos District sends copies of planned sales to the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw for their review early in the Annual Operation Plan process. The purpose is so they can review individual sale locations to see if there is potential for cultural resources on the site. So far, there have not been any issues.

Coos District also interfaces with both the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw and the Coquille Tribe on local watershed councils.

**Districts Covered by the Northwest and Southwest Oregon State Forest Management Plans (Astoria, Tillamook, Forest Grove, North Cascade, West Oregon, West Lane, and Southwest Oregon Districts)**

The State Forests Advisory Committee – a group of diverse stakeholders that advise ODF on implementation of the Northwest and Southwest Forest Management Plans, including the districts’ Annual Operations Plans – is in its fifth year of operation. Mike Wilson, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, is now serving as the tribal representative on that committee which routinely meets throughout the year in Forest Grove. These meetings provide an opportunity for district and State Forests Program staff to interact and communicate with Mike on a number of topics and issues.

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## **DISTRICT-WIDE ACTIVITIES** (not associated with specific programs)

### **Central Oregon District, Prineville**

The Central Oregon District partnered with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and the Burns Paiute Tribe on two elementary school projects: a third grade Riparian Outdoor School in Logan Valley and a fifth grade Ecology School in Bear Valley.

## **SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS**

ODF is very pleased overall with the relationships that we have been able to build and develop with the Tribes over the past year, and with the involvement of the Tribes in our program activities, and as members of agency stakeholder advisory committees and other groups. That involvement requires a very real commitment in time and energy from the various Tribal representatives, and we are very appreciative of that. It adds a tremendous amount of value to these group processes and products that we would not be able to otherwise obtain. We are committed to continuing and enhancing those relationships and activities in 2007 and beyond.

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